

1966

Report of the Committee on Educational Procedures and Facilities, Part 1A, a,b,c,d. and covering large lecture halls and large group instruction, and charging the Executive Committee with implementation in 1966-67 of seminars on large group instruction

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_bills

Recommended Citation

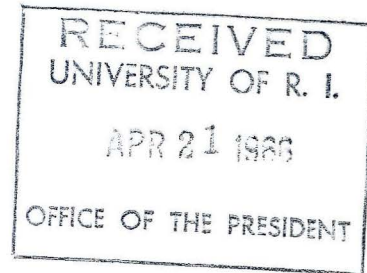
University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "Report of the Committee on Educational Procedures and Facilities, Part 1A, a,b,c,d. and covering large lecture halls and large group instruction, and charging the Executive Committee with implementation in 1966-67 of seminars on large group instruction" (1966). *Faculty Senate Bills*. Paper 131.

http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_bills/131

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Bills by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

FACULTY SENATE

RESOLUTIONApproved by the Faculty Senate

TO: President Francis H. Horn

FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached RESOLUTION, titled Report of the Committee on Educational Procedures and Facilities, Part 1A, a,b,c,d. and covering large lecture halls and large group instruction, and charging the Executive Committee with implementation in 1966-67 of seminars on large group instruction,

is forwarded for your consideration.

2. The original and two copies for your use are included.
3. This RESOLUTION was approved by vote of the Faculty Senate on

April 19, 1966
(date)

4. After considering this resolution, will you please indicate your approval, disapproval or other comment and return the original copy, completing the endorsement below.

May 10, 1966
(date)

Elizabeth W. Grandall /s/
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate
FROM: The University President

1. Returned.

2. Approved ☒ Disapproved ☐ Other (explanation attached) ☐

May 2, 1966
(date)

Francis H. Horn /s/
President

Original received and forwarded to the Secretary of the Senate and Registrar for filing in the Archives of the University.

May 9, 1966
(date)

Elizabeth W. Grandall /s/
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

Appendix C

Report of Audio-Visual Coordinator

Mr. Peter Hicks, Coordinator of the Audio-Visual Center provided the following information relative to the Center.

1. His office intends to make a report on Edwards and Green after two semesters of use, that is, in early summer. It seems practical to await the report before taking possible further action in regard to these auditoriums.
2. Some large-group instruction may require years of preparation. Not so much in terms of use of techniques and materials, but in the accumulation of the latter.
3. Large-group instructors should reconnoiter their lecture halls well in advance of the beginning of instruction.
4. One precise example among many of Audio-Visual's ability to contribute to large-group instruction. Audio-Visual has equipment for multiple reproduction of items to be distributed to unlimited numbers of students. Photographic apparatuses eliminate such errors as can occur between the printed source and the cut stencil. They eliminate the problem of wear and tear on a cut stencil. They can cheaply reproduce illustrations and the like. Audio-Visual has done such work, for large and small-group instruction.
5. From Audio-Visual's point of view, there is not always a distinction between what it does for large or small classes. Often the services supplied are the same. Of course, some services (overhead projection) may be necessary for large groups, where only helpful to small ones. Audio-Visual soon will send to all Faculty a description of the services it provides. Many of these services will be of special appreciation to large-group instruction.

Appendix D

A typical comment from a Department Chairman relative to facilities:

"All classes are growing in size. Some are now limited in size because of lack of space...The space needed is not only for lectures but for laboratory exercises. (Our) laboratories are all small, and limited in number. Furthermore, they are not satisfactorily equipped...Independence Hall seats only 200. Hence, to a class of 400 the Lectures must be repeated. Furthermore, Independence is poorly provided with facilities. Lights can be turned off and on only from booth in rear. There is no communication possible between lecturer and booth in rear. When room is full many side seats are not satisfactory for students. Blackboard writing hardly visible to students in rear... Edwards Hall seats large classes but has no blackboard facilities, as are needed for classes in science. Seats are not provided with good writing space."

- (f) The audio visual center does provide limited service and technical assistance to instructors of classes for large as well as small groups (see appendix C).
- (g) In general, several respondents were of the opinion that large-group instruction was the result of administrative arrangements to handle large enrollments, rather than a result of a well-planned approach to a particular method of teaching.

The following Appendices include pertinent information relative to the study.

Appendix A

Report on Enrollments in Large Classes

Miss Ellen Hull of the Scheduling Office provided the following precise information for classes of large enrollments during the Spring Semester 1966:

Biol. 1 - 2 secs.	- 321 students	- I. Aud.
Biol. 2 - 1 sec.	- 395 students	- Ed. Aud.
Bot. 1 - 1 sec.	- 132 students	- I. Aud.
Chem. 10 - 1 sec.	- 507 students	- Ed. Aud.
Chem. 22 - 1 sec.	- 126 students	- P. Aud.
Hist. 4 - 7 sec.	- 1310 students	- Gr. Aud.
Phil. 1 - 4 sec.	- 375 students	- R. Aud. (1 large sec.)
Phys. 2 - 2 sec.	- 201 students	- E. Aud.
Psych. 7 - 1 sec.	- 191 students	- P. Aud.
Psy. 32 - 1 sec.	- 191 students	- P. Aud.
Spch. 1 - 1 sec.	- 159 students	- I. Aud.
Zool. 1 - 1 sec.	- 185 students	- I. Aud.
Zool. 42 - 1 sec.	- 133 students	- I. Aud.

Appendix B

Report of Experiment in College of Engineering

Electrical Engineering, EE 10. Total Enrollment 230. Trial Basis experiment, Fall 1965:

1. 4 control group sections of 30 taught by 4 different instructors.
2. 1 experimental section of 120. 2 hours/wk East Hall Audit., plus discussion sections of 30 apiece. One hr./wk., all with the same professor teaching the lecture sessions.
3. All students took the same final examinations.
4. No appreciable difference in grades, and the Dept. was generally "happy or satisfied with the results".
5. The same trial basis experiment will be tried next fall.
6. If success continues, the Dept. will contemplate adopting the experimental system, never with lecture sections larger than 120, and always having the lecturer meet his own students in the discussion sections.

3. Comment:

In order to collect data, questionnaires were circulated to department chairmen in the College of Arts and Sciences (18 responses) and in the College of Business (4 responses). Interviews were held with Miss Ellen Hull of the Scheduling Office, Mr. Peter Hicks of the Audio-Visual Center, and personnel in the College of Engineering.

The questionnaire included the following items:

- (a) Does your department offer what you individually define as large-group instruction?
- (b) If yes, in what courses, and how many are in these courses?
- (c) What would you estimate personally is meant by the term "large-group instruction"?
- (d) Are the campus facilities available to your department sufficient for your current needs, in terms of both classroom instruction and examination administration?
- (e) If no, what are your problems in these respects?
- (f) Do you envisage expansion of large-group instruction in your department?
- (g) If yes, what will be the nature of your space needs? Larger classes? More large classes? Both? etc.
- (h) Have you further comments in this area?

The findings are summarized below:

- (a) The evidence indicates that large-group instruction is taking place on campus to a considerable degree. It also indicates that limited recognition has been given this approach to teaching by the administration in terms of planned facilities, reduction in teaching loads, funds for experimentation, professional assistance in research design and statistical analysis, and consultation relative to use and production of visual and audio materials.
- (b) Approximately 60% of departments reporting currently offering large-group instruction (see Appendix A). Sizes of "large-group" classes ranged from 100 to 500.
- (c) Sixty-five percent of the Department Chairmen indicated dissatisfaction with facilities either due to equipment, design or lack of availability. A typical statement may be found in Appendix D.
- (d) Seventy percent of the Chairmen reporting envisaged expansion of large-group instruction in the future.
- (e) The College of Engineering is currently doing some research on large-group instruction in Electrical Engineering 10 (see appendix B).

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island
Faculty Senate

April 1, 1966

Report of Committee on Educational Procedures and Facilities

This report is divided into two parts. The first part contains items for action with suggested recommendations. The second part contains two items considered by our committee and presented as information.

Part I

A. Large Lecture Halls and Large Group Instruction

1. Charge:

Consideration of a shortage of adequate large lecture facilities was presented to our Committee by Chairman H. Perry Jeffries in a letter dated March 2, 1965. In discussing the shortage of large lecture halls it became apparent that large group instruction was an inseparable part of large lecture facilities. A study of both was conducted and the following recommendations are presented as guidelines to provide adequate facilities and their effective use for courses where large group instruction is desirable.

2. Recommendations:

- Resolution #98*
- (a) In future construction or remodeling every effort should be made to provide for large classrooms which take into consideration the essential design and equipment essential to teaching large groups. This planning should be done in consultation with the Coordinator of Audio-Visual Services and his planning Committee (as recommended in Senate Bill #60).
 - (b) Experimentation in large-group instruction should be encouraged by the administration by assisting instructors in research design and statistical analysis. In this way, changes in class size would be based on evidence which indicates the quality of instruction would not deteriorate. In order to encourage large-group instruction, instructors must be given time (as a part of teaching load), assistance (consultation and technical), and adequate facilities to develop courses for large enrollments.
 - (c) A careful study should be made by Department Chairmen relative to the types of courses which may lend themselves to a large-group approach.
 - (d) To help implement these recommendations, seminars relative to the potential and needs of large group instruction would be profitable. The seminars should also deal with the research conducted at other institutions and the various methods of instruction employed.

*(MOTION carried for
Exec. Com. to appoint committee to implement
this recommendation in 1966-67)*